

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, as amended, remain herein. Claims 3, 11-15 and 17 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Claims 18 and 19 have been added.

1. The specification was objected to as allegedly failing to provide basis for a means-plus-function claim. Claim 2 is the only claim under consideration with means plus function language; basis for claim 2 can be found, for example, in the specification at p. 6, lines 27-32.

2. Claims 4-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 4, 6 and 7 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Claims 5 and 8-10 recite the limitations “caliber,” “over-caliber,” “sub-caliber,” and “full caliber.” In the field of munitions, these terms refer to the diameter of a gun barrel through which the projectile may be launched. This is clear to one skilled in the art, as demonstrated by the various references cited in the Office Action. Thus, claims 5 and 8-10 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Campoli U.S. Patent 4,444,113. Campoli discloses an ammunition with a self-sealing obturator 22 and a centering band 24. Neither the obturator nor the centering band of Campoli is a “sub-band” as recited in applicants’ claim 1. Applicants note that elements 66 and 58 cited in the Office Action are surfaces, not bands. Further, element 46 is a bleed tube and does not divide the obturator into multiple sections, bands, or skirts (e.g. elements 58 and 22 are incorrectly labeled “band” and

“skirt,” respectively in the Office Action). Thus, Campoli does not disclose a band comprising a front sub-band comprising at least two axially longitudinal sections, the sub-band having at least one conical section, which in an axial cross-section has a wedge-shaped profile, for tightly fitting with a matching complementary profile of a groove of such projectile, the sub-band attachable to such projectile by a cylindrical skirt.

Since Campoli does not disclose every element of applicants’ claim 1, Campoli is not a proper grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claim 1 or its dependent claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

4. Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Campoli and Gotz et al. U.S. Patent 4,833,995. For the reasons stated above, Campoli does not disclose every element of applicants’ claim 1, which is incorporated into dependent claims 5-7.

Gotz does not disclose what Campoli lacks. Gotz discloses a plastic guide band comprising two half rings connected with a groove-attachment. Gotz does not disclose a band comprising a front sub-band comprising at least two axially longitudinal sections, the sub-band having at least one conical section, which in an axial cross-section has a wedge-shaped profile, for tightly fitting with a matching complementary profile of a groove of such projectile, the sub-band attachable to such projectile by a cylindrical skirt.

Thus, Campoli and Gotz, alone or even combined, do not disclose every element of applicants’ claims 5-7. Nor would it be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Campoli and Gotz to render applicants’ claims 5-7 obvious. For these reasons, these references are not a proper grounds of rejection of claims 5-7, and applicants respectfully request

reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Accordingly, the application is now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

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Roger W. Parkhurst

Reg. No. 25,177

Adam C. Ellsworth

Reg. No. 55,152

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-429-3000
Fax: 202-429-3902

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